

Appln. No. 10/719,245
Amendment dated November 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed August 8, 2006

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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 18 remain in this application. Claims 10, 16, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 13 through 15 and 17 have been withdrawn. Claims 19 through 23 have been added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 4 through 7 of the Office Action

Claims 1 through 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Greenberg.

Claims 1 through 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Buening.

Claims 1 through 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dickhaut.

Claims 11, 12, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg or Buening or Dickhaut in view of Field.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires "a plurality of sliding members coupled to and protruding from the lower face of said sheet of material, said sliding members of said plurality of sliding members being spaced from each other to form a grid of sliding members" and "wherein each of said sliding members has a convex outer surface for facilitating sliding of said sliding members on the support surface".

It is submitted that the cited patents do not disclose "a convex outer surface", as the structures shown in the patents do not show "convex".

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"Convex" is defined as "curved or rounded like the exterior of a sphere or circle" by *Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary*. Merriam-Webster, Inc. 06 Nov. 2006. <Dictionary.com. It is submitted that the ribs or ridges of the sleds in these patents do not disclose the required "convex outer surface".

It is therefore submitted that the cited patents, and especially the allegedly obvious combination of Greenberg, Buening, Dickhaut or Field set forth in the rejection of the Office Action, would not lead one skilled in the art to the applicant's invention as required by claims 11, 12 and 19.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) and 103(a) rejection of claims 1 through 9 and 11 through 12 is therefore respectfully requested.

Added Claims

Added claim 19 requires that "the sheet of material is bendable", which is demonstrated in Figure 2 of the drawings and is also submitted to be foreign to the devices shown in the cited patents.

Added claim 20 requires that "the sheet of material has a front edge and a rear edge, the sheet of material having a pair of side edges extending between the front and rear edges" and "wherein a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the front and rear edges and a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the side edges". This feature, shown in the drawings, is also submitted to be foreign to the cited patents.

Also, added claim 21 requires that "each of the sliding members has a perimeter formed of approximately four segments, each of the segments of the perimeter being arcuate", which is also not disclosed by the prior art.

Further, added claim 22 requires that "each of the sliding members has four corner junctures where adjacent ones of the arcuate segments meet", which is also different than the cited patents.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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